

# Numismatics International

P.O. Box 30013

Dallas, Texas 75230

Sixtieth meeting of  
NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL  
Wednesday, June 18, 1969, 7:30 P.M.  
Northwest National Bank - Community Room  
Walnut Hill Shopping Village  
DALLAS, TEXAS, U.S.A.

PROGRAM: "Ancient Greek Coinage Showing the Development  
of the Coinage Art" - Part II

(Note: Part I of this program was presented  
in October 1968.)

SPEAKER: Kenneth ROBINSON

## ORDERS ACCEPTED FOR:

ARGENTINA, Y7 thru Y34 (No gold), 31 coins, VF-UNC	\$4.80 set
BELGIUM, 10 Fr. 1969, Y67, Fr.&Fl. (2 pcs)	.75 set
BOLIVIA, Y59, F-VF	6.50 ea.
" Y64, F-VF	6.50 ea.
BRAZIL, Y55, UNC	2.35 ea.
GUATEMALA, Y36-VF/XF, Y47 & Y74-XF, 1/4 Reals (3 pcs.)	1.40 set
" Y69, Y69a, Y90, all VF	
25 Centavos (3 pcs.)	2.85 set
" Y91-F/VF, Y92-93-F, (3 pcs.)	2.50 set
PERU, Y56-58, F/VF, 3 pcs.	2.25 set
SOUTH AFRICA, Y56, XF	3.25 set
SYRIA, 1 Pound 1968, FAO Coinage, UNC. Y30	1.00 ea.
" 50 Piastres, Nickel 1968, UNC, Y28	.60 ea.

(Save money on your coin purchases and support your  
organization by placing orders for the above listings.)

All coin orders must be in by June 25th!

BOOK: "Report of Committee to Research World Coinage  
Types and Varieties" - by NI-GCTA membership,  
126 pp, 10 pp plates, continuing supplements:  
(Only 19 copies left) \$2.00 each Postpaid

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## OUTSTANDING COIN ORDERS LISTED IN PAST BULLETINS:

Feb. 1968 -- Philippines 1967 Set (Due next month)  
Dec. 1968 -- Zambia Y9-13  
Mar. 1969 -- All Bulgaria  
Apr. 1969 -- All Austria, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala,  
Honduras, West Germany and Salvador  
May 1969 --- All items outstanding.



MAY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: Members #330-336 published in the May Bulletin have been admitted to membership.

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JUNE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objection is received by July 1, 1969, their membership will become effective that date:

- 337 Louis MINCER, Box 791, Homeland, California
- 338 Robert L. MAHR, DAC, HQ. 29 SIG. GP. (USASTRATCOM),  
APO San Francisco 96346 -- (Chinese Struck Coinage)
- 339-MT Daniel K. E. CHING, P.O. Box 18043, Denver, Colo. 80218  
(China and Manchukuo)
- 340-MT J. William DAVIS, 23 Augusta Ct., Greenville, S.C. 29605  
(World Types and Ancients)
- 341 Jerry L. MALESOVAS, 3332 Camelot, Dallas, Texas 75229
- 342-MT Herbert H. ESPY, 229 Oakwood Road, Fairfax, Wilmington,  
Delaware 19803 -- (World Types, Japan and China)
- 343 Bradley F. BENNETT, 3301 Macomb St., N.W., Washington,  
D. C. 20008 -- (World Types)
- 344 Mrs. Edward D. JACKSON, 4265 N. E. Halsey St., Apt. 204,  
Portland, Oregon 97213 -- (Commemoratives & Proof Sets)
- 345-MT Dwain O. REINBOLT, 5040 Rio Hondo Ave., Temple City,  
California 91780 -- (Scandinavian - Date & Mintmark)
- 346 Saunders PINCKARD, P.O. Box 94, Sandersville, Miss. 39477  
(Chinese and Japanese)
- 347-MT Bruce B. BRAUN, Box 2728, Amherst Station, Buffalo,  
New York 14226 -- (Ancient and Medieval)
- 348-MT Jack K. MORGAN, 111 Goodhue St., San Antonio, Texas 78218  
(World Coins dated 1932)
- 349-MT Don MAC RAE, 30 McCalister St., Ottawa 10, Ontario, Canada  
(Germany and World Crowns)
- (MT - Will trade by mail)

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REINSTATED MEMBER: Our sincere apologies to the following member whose name was inadvertently omitted from the new membership list:

- 169-MT Neil KUNS, 260 E. Mariana, Rialto, California 92376  
(World Types and Crowns)

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 258 Clifford H. TULCREN, Box 445, Richards, Texas 77873  
(World Types)

SUPPLEMENT TO "NI-GCTA REPORT---" INCLUDED WITH THIS BULLETIN:

Enclosed with this bulletin are 10 pages of the continuing "Notes on the Coinage of China Since 1875" by Patrick D. Hogan. These 10 pages, along with the pages previously published in January and February of this year, complete Pat's supplement to the Chinese section of the NI-GCTA Report. Please include these 10 pages with your copy of the Report to insure its completeness, especially the China Section. It is hoped that additional supplements will be forthcoming to the Report on other areas of world numismatics.

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MONTHLY ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE: Due to the additional cost of mailing the above pages this month, we will forego the illustrated article for June and take it up again in the July Bulletin. Remember to keep your contributions flowing in to Pat Hogan as he will be more than happy to help you illustrate your story so as to present it in the best manner possible.

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FRED DROST: In the new applications for membership last month, we should have included "Mintmarks of the World" in the collecting specialty of Fred DROST. Please mark your records accordingly and anyone having a mutual interest should get in correspondence with Fred.

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CLUB LIBRARY: As we close out our 5th year and begin the 6th next month, we wish to announce that during the summer months we will be getting an official club library formed. Many members have donated books, pamphlets, etc. to our organization and since we lacked quantity to make up an official library, we were forced to delay the formation of same. Bob TOMLINSON has agreed to act as Club Librarian and will be busy the next 2 or 3 months in getting all present material compiled into a listing for publication in a Bulletin sometime during the summer or early fall. In all probability, we will attempt to operate our library on a basis similar to the American Numismatic Associations' Library, with members desiring to borrow items paying postage both ways and setting a limit of time a member may hold a borrowed item. Any member having ideas on this should let Bob Tomlinson know about your thoughts. Also, any members having items they desire to donate should mail them to bob direct (8619 Aldwick, Dallas, Texas 75238) or to the regular club address.

Recently we were offered a group of "World Coins" and an almost complete set of "Whitman Numismatic Journals". The "Journals" are missing February, March, April and June 1964 issues. We have one extra copy of the January 1964 issue and could arrange a trade with anyone that could furnish the four missing copies. A further listing of "World Coins" will be offered at a later date with requests for members to fill in the missing issues.

More details on the library will be published as they develop, in the meantime, we need all the help we can get to get it rolling so let's hear from all you members.

NEW ISSUES WITH ASSIGNED YEOMAN NUMBERS AND NI ESTIMATED VALUES:

(The catalog numbers assigned to new issues published here are supplied by special arrangement with "Current Coins of the World", published and copyrighted by Western Publishing Company, Inc., Whitman Publishing Division, Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A. No further use of these catalog numbers in any other publications is authorized.) --- (Pricing is the estimated value assigned by Numismatics International and does not reflect prices that will later be assigned in "Current Coins of the World".)

Editor's Note: A new revised 3rd Edition of "Current Coins of the World" is due for release late this summer or early fall.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>TENTATIVE CATALOG NO. &amp; ISSUE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED NI VALUE</u>
AUSTRIA:	Y106a 5 Schilling 1968, Copper-Nickel	40 \$ .35
	Y121 25 Schilling 1969, Silver, Peter Rosegger Commemorative	2.90 2.00
BAHRAIN:	Y7 500 Fils 1968, Silver, Opening of Isa Town Commemorative	4.00 3.50
INDIA:	Y79a 10 Paise 1968, Nickel-Brass	.15
	Y86 20 Paise 1968, Nickel-Brass	30.25
	(Editor's Note to NI Member Holland Wallace at Whitman: You are confusing us as these were previously announced as Y87-88 which we published as such in our February 1969 NI Bulletin. If the new #86 is correct, what is the new number for the present Y86 listed in the 2nd Edition CCW?)	
LEBANON:	* (Note change in previously announced numbering assignments of Y26-29 published in May 1969 Bulletin. This is due to the report that a 5 Piastre coin is scheduled for release.)	
	Y25 5 Piastres (1969?), Nickel-Brass	15 .20
	*Y26 10 Piastres 1968, Nickel-Brass	30 .30
	*Y27 25 Piastres 1968, Nickel-Brass	40 .50
	*Y28 50 Piastres 1968, Nickel	.75
	*Y29 1 Livre 1968, Nickel, FAO Issue	1.50 1.25
PAKISTAN:	Y19a 2 Paisa 1968, Aluminum	.15
	Y24 25 Paisa 1968, Copper-Nickel	.25
PHILIPPINES:	Y51 1 Piso 1968, Silver, Centennial Birth of Emilio Aguinaldo Comm.	3.50
SYRIA:	Y27 25 Piastres 1968, Nickel	40 .75
	Y28 50 Piastres 1968, Nickel	1.00
	Y29 1 Pound 1968, Nickel	1.50
	**Y30 1 Pound 1968, Nickel (FAO Coinage)	1.50
	**(Note change in previously announced number assigned for Y30 which was listed as Y28 in the May 1969 Bulletin.)	



## FOREIGN COINS AS LEGAL TENDER IN THE UNITED STATES

by Michael F. Harkins

The United States of America began to operate under the present Constitution, as a practical matter, with the inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States April 30, 1789. One of the powers entrusted to the new government in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution was the power "To Coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign coin". Prior to this, there had been an odd assortment of Continental currency, state currency and coin and foreign coins which had been used as a medium of exchange, not to mention furs, trade goods, warehouse receipts, tobacco and other too numerous to mention.

Congress, after careful study and acting upon the recommendation of Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, passed legislation affecting our coinage in 1792. Provisions were made for the establishment of a United States Mint; establishing a decimal system of currency; to make the Spanish Eight Reales legal tender; and to make the American silver dollar of similar size, quality and value as the Spanish Eight Reales or "Spanish pieces of 8", with the same ratio of silver to apply to United States fractional coins.

The first United States Mint was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by a resolution of Congress dated April 2, 1792. The first coins to be struck at the mint were the silver Half DIME'S dated 1792. The first copper coins were struck in 1793 in the half cent and large cents. Gold coins were struck in 1795 and included the Half Eagles (\$5.00) and Eagles (\$10.00). All were based on the decimal system of currency.

The United States mint was faced with difficulties from the outset. First, the United States at this time did not produce an adequate supply of silver and gold to supply our own demand for coins. However, a greater and much more difficult problem to solve was that the silver bullion in the American dollar was worth slightly less than the silver in the Spanish Eight Reales, although both were legal tender for the same value. The result was that American silver coins were shipped to the West Indies where they were exchanged for the "Spanish pieces of 8". The Spanish coins were returned to the United States, smelted down to silver bullion, and exchanged for more American silver coins at a small profit. Although this exchange was profitable to some individuals, it helped to create an acute shortage of coins in the United States. A congressional estimate in 1832 was that approximately eighty percent of the silver coins struck at the United States Mint in the period from 1794 to 1832 were exported. The end result of these two problems was that the American people had to rely mainly upon paper money and foreign coins, particularly those of Spain and her former colonies, in order to have money to carry normal commercial activities.

Congress passed legislation in 1792, 1834 and 1843 which declared the Spanish and Mexican dollars legal tender in the United States. These coins and their fractions were readily accepted, although the law was ambiguous about the fractional pieces.

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FOREIGN COINS AS LEGAL TENDER IN THE UNITED STATES (Cont'd):

One interesting event based on the legal tender status of the Spanish dollar is the verdict in the trial of one John Burke Murphy in New York in 1819. He had been arrested for having, in his possession, some counterfeiting materials, including a steel die of the obverse, or head side of a Spanish dollar. Burke was sentenced to two years in jail on the grounds that "A Spanish dollar is as much the currency of the country as an Eagle, and both of them are rendered current by a statute of the United States."

A currency reform law was finally passed on February 21, 1853 to remedy the coin problem. Fractional coins were authorized to have a reduced silver content. A large enough quantity of the new coins were minted to fill the needs for fractional coins in the United States, and the reduced silver content eliminated them from consideration as silver bullion.

Legislation was passed on February 21, 1857 which removed the legal tender status from foreign coins, but it provided for a grace period of two years. The grace period was extended in 1859 for another two years. It was found out that it was not necessary and the grace period was revoked shortly after its enactment in 1859. This marked the end of the use of foreign coins as legal tender in the United States.

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PAST MEETINGS IN BRIEF: The excellence of Jack Lewis' talk in March on the "Struck Coins of China" presented quite a challenge to the April speaker Ernest Couch whose subject was "Ancient Coins". Mr. Lewis' home-made slides contributed greatly to his highly informative talk. It was an added pleasure to have Mrs. Lewis in attendance. In April, as a preface to his "Ancient Coins", Mr. Couch introduced his wife, a history teacher, and explained how much he depended upon her assistance in his pursuit of the numismatics of ancient coinage. Everyone enjoyed the many and often unique coins Mr. Couch exhibited from his extensive collection. In May, Andy Law spoke on "Japanese Coinage". Using a chart, he explained the dating of Japanese coins and in a sense painted a picture of Japan's early history by the use of a map. Bob Tomlinson, in the absence of regular auctioneer Wally Widtman, successfully auctioned about 30 lots. Pat Hogan's 1964 South African Proof Set (which he won in the 1968 Membership Contest) was auctioned and the proceeds were donated to the club treasury.

-- Frances O. Landon --

(Editor's Note: Frances has been "under-the-weather" the last couple of months and apologizes for the brief "Meeting in Brief" column, but hopes to get back in the swing of things and give a more detailed report of each meeting in subsequent Bulletins. Hope you are feeling much better now, Frances -- we have missed you at the meetings.)

## IMPRESSIONS FROM PRAGUE

by Matthew J. van der Voort

From March 7th to 9th the Czechoslovakian Numismatic Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary. I was invited to attend the Congress and further celebrations and since the Trade Representative of Czechoslovakia in Holland, with which I had done some business for an American company, recently died from a heart attack, I had two reasons to accept the invitation. First, I was anxious to visit the country during its present Russian occupation and second, the Congress and consultations with the Foreign Trade Office in Prague.

The people are wonderful, kind and hospitable. They deserve our admiration for the way they manage to live as normal a life as possible in the present circumstances. In private conversations I perceived how deep freedom is rooted in the Czech people. Bohemia, with the beautiful city of Prague as its capital, has a long and fascinating history.

Numismatically, the Congress was a great success. I can say that numismatics in Czechoslovakia stands on a very high level. Without a single exception, the lectures were of outstanding quality. There were foreign representatives from West Germany, Great Britain, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, East Germany, The Netherlands, etc. Credit must be given to Dr. Ph. Pavel Radomersky and his charming wife Anne Marie and to Eng. Eduard Polivka, the secretary of the organization. Dr. Radomersky was the chairman of the Congress. What these people did to make the Congress a first rate numismatic event borders the unbelievable.

I had the pleasure to meet some of the people with whom I have maintained correspondence for several years. I was on the list of foreign speakers - I lectured on the subject "Jefimki". Since many of the attendants never had seen such a counterstamped coin, my contribution to the program was not unfruitful. Moreover, as a Dutchman, I could mention that one of the great sons of Czechoslovakia, Amos Komensky, lived and worked in my country where he is also buried. His grave is a shrine that will be visited by most Czechs who come to Holland. I received an extra applause while speaking of this apostle of free thought, understandable since the Czechs have lived so many centuries under foreign rule (the Hapsburgs, the Germans, and now the Russians).

Every attendant of the Congress was given a pin, depicting the emblem of the Organization and a commemorative medal, dedicated to Dr. Fialla, the founder of the Organization. Dr. Radomersky was kind enough to give me an extra copy for the collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

There were no linguistic difficulties; the Czech lectures were summarized in German and French and the next morning we each received the complete text translated into German. I can speak German fluently, which is generally understood in Prague.

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IMPRESSIONS FROM PRAGUE - by Matthew J. van der Voort (Cont'd):

Close to 200 Czechs were in attendance so that together with the foreign visitors, not including the wives, some 225 people sat at the banquet on the first evening of the celebrations. Though the meal was of the sober variety, the atmosphere was most enjoyable and friendly. Once again, my slogan - "Numismatics is the Pilgrimage of Mankind Struck in Metal and it Knows No Boundaries" - proved to be true.

Apart from the Congress I had to see the people of the Foreign Trade Organization, as I mentioned before. What I experienced there is almost undecipherable. My wife and I were virtually showered with precious gifts. We were invited for a dinner party, which was held on the premises where Jaroslav Hasek wrote his famous book, "The Good Soldier Svejk". This locality was exciting, wall paintings and underlayers for your glass, all pertaining to the book. I assumed all the illustrations of the book are to be found on the walls.

The Czechs, or at least the Prague people, have a curious, but not unpleasant custom. At such a dinner-party among friends, at intervals of about half an hour one of the men may observe that it is time for a "round". That means a round of kissing. All the men will then kiss the ladies present at the party and not on the cheek, to be sure. Since most of the company was of the tender gender, I cannot say that I did not get a fair share of the "rounds"!

My program being very busy, I was nonetheless able to squeeze out an afternoon for a tour to the Hradshin, the old part of the city on a 1,000 foot high hill. There you may see the finest examples of old architecture, works of art, paintings and what you may like. Really, Prague is a gem in Central Europe, reflecting the culture of more than 1000 years. Our gratitude goes to Milada Dockalova, one of the female officials of the Trade Organization, who was so kind to act as our guide. She showed us one of the most remarkable places - "The Golden Street" - on the hill. Originally this was not a street at all. The old city wall had, as were everywhere else, arches. These arches now are transformed into very little one-room houses, now mostly small shops. In a bookshop there I discovered that when it was still a "house", the writer Franz Kafka wrote there his famous work "The Trial". Surprising to me was that the wife of the present inhabitant, of all languages, spoke Dutch! Indeed, we live in a small world!

Summarizing, I can say that in no respect I regret to have visited Prague. The reception and treat we received was extremely friendly and thus we have only pleasant memories of our visit.

Let me end with the wish that God may bless the Czechoslovakian people and their hapless country.

Matthew J. van der Voort